

Understanding the Barnegat Bay Estuary: Student Worksheet

Name _____

1. What are **two** characteristics of estuaries?

2. What are **two** functions of estuaries?

3. True (T) or false (F)

- a. As water moves through the estuary toward the ocean the salinity tends to increase _____
- b. As one moves through the estuary toward the ocean, the estuary tends to get wider _____
- c. Water flow tends to speed up as it moves through the estuary toward the ocean _____
- d. Both surface and ground water are important sources of freshwater to the Barnegat Bay _____
- e. Because of the steep slope in the Barnegat Bay's watershed, the flow of the rivers and streams through the watershed is unusually fast. _____
- f. There is an aquifer which opens under the Bay releasing groundwater into the ecosystem _____

4. What are the names of the two inlets that allow ocean water to enter the Barnegat Bay?

_____ Inlet and _____ Inlet

5. Which Ocean is found off the coast of New Jersey?

6. What is the term used to describe water that's less salty than the ocean, but saltier than a river?
7. Where in the Barnegat Bay would the salinity be highest?
8. What are three examples of animals or plants that thrive in the brackish areas of an estuary?
9. During drought years would you expect a spot in the middle of the estuary to have **higher**
lower or **the same** salinity as in a year when there had been a lot of rain? (Please
circle one answer)
10. What happens to the salinity of the Bay when humans withdraw surface or groundwater from
the watershed to use in their homes and communities?
11. Why might this be of concern to us?